TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

MACEDONIA

(Republika Makedonija)

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BACKGROUND

Full Name: The republic of Macedonia

Capital: Skopje

Population: 2,022,604 (est)

Type of government: Emerging democra

Head of government: Pres Boris Trajiko

PM

Official language(s) Macedonian, Alban

Economy: Socialist transforming into capitalist

Religions: Eastern Orthodox (67%) Musl

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: Visitors to border areas near Albania and Serbia-Montenegro should consult the travel warnings for those countries. Visitors should cross only at recognized border crossings.

International Airport: Skopje

Flights from Frankfurt: Avioimpex

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/rail

U.S. Embassy address: Ilindenska BB, 91000 Skopje. Tel:389-91-116-180; FAX: 389-91-117-103. E-mail - kerzicf@ml

Transportation: Public transportation: Fair.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Fair.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor. Most major highways are in good repair, but secondary roads are poorly maintained and lighted and frequently are used by horse-

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: All personnel assigned to EUCOM units do not require Special Area clearance from DoS and SECDEF/USDP ADMIN. Country clearance is required for all US Military and DoD civilians entering Macedonia on official business. Senior officials are required to submit Country clearance request to USDAO Skopje irrespective of the nature of their official business in the F.Y.R.O.M. USCINCEUR Theater clearance is required for official travel by DoD or DoD sponsored personnel of any rank to visit US forces assigned to Task Force Falcon Rear at Camp Able Sentry, Skopje, FYROM. For those not working with TFF, passport is required. For official travel, no-fee passports are desired. Visas are not required for Diplomatic and Official

All personnel are subject to normal customs procedures.

be obtained at points of entry to FYROM. For DoD personnel,

Travelers must complete an entry/exit document when they enter the F.Y.R.O.M. The exit portion of this document must be retained for presentation to F.Y.R.O.M. immigration officials upon departure. Loss of this form results in departure delays.

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Firearms are prohibited. Photographing government facilities is prohibited.

Embassy contract hotels accept American Express, Diners Club, and Visa credit cards. They also provide free shuttle service to/from the airport.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: The local currency is the Macedonian Denar. German marks are also acceptable.

Rate: Approximate: 56 Macedonian denar for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, cold injuries, industrial pollution and heat injuries (limited)

Availability of medical services: minimal. Health facilities are limited. Medicines are in short supply. Doctors and hospitals expect immediate payment for health services.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Macedonia. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Poor.

Health Precautions:None

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B (recommended), TB (recommended) MMR (recommended) and tetanus-disptheria boosters (recommended).

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Theft and other petty crimes occur frequently in the FYR of Macedonia. The loss or theft of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate

Macedonia is strict on: Drugs. U.S. citizens are subject to the laws of the country in which they are traveling. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs are strict, and convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and fines.

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Uniform may be worn for official duties and functions. Civilian clothes should be worn off-duty.

This concludes the TRAVELLER'S BRIEFING for

MACEDONIA